State of Tennessee
Department of State
Tennessee State Library and Archives

Kleeman, Karl M., 1894-1972
World War I Photograph Collection, 1914-1918

COLLECTION SUMMARY

Creator:

Kleeman, Karl M., 1894-1972

Inclusive Dates:

1914-1918

Scope & Content:

The collection contains 79 small souvenir photographs (ranging in size from 1.75 x 3 inches to 3.5 x 4.5 inches) from World War I. The photographs are primarily battle scenes and images of war damage. There are also 15 photographs of casualties, some of which are very graphic. There are also four photographs of prominent historical figures: French ace Georges Guynemer in his airplane "Vieux Charles," French statesman Georges Clemenceau, French general Ferdinand Foch, and U. S. general John J. Pershing.

Physical Description/Extent:

79 photographs

Accession/Record Group Number:

Ac. No. 2006-059

Language:

English

Permanent Location:

VI-C-1v

Repository:

Tennessee State Library and Archives, 403 Seventh Avenue North, Nashville, Tennessee, 37243-0312

Administrative/Biographical History

Karl Myers Kleeman (October 26, 1894-May 11, 1972) was born in Clarksville, Tennessee, to Isaac "Ike" Kleeman (who owned a butcher shop there) and Bertha Myers Kleeman. The Kleemans also had several other children: Amelia "Amy" (August 9, 1892-?), William (June 16, 1893-September 10, 1957), Edwin Perry (June 22, 1903-?), and Minna Kleeman (June 2, 1908-?). William served in the 114th Field Artillery Regiment under Col. Luke Lea during World War I and was mayor of Clarksville in the 1950s. At the time of his enlistment in the Army to fight in World War I, Karl Kleeman was a ready-to-wear merchant in Clarksville.

Karl Kleeman enlisted in the Tennessee National Guard on April 23, 1917, and went on to serve during World War I in the 115th Field Artillery Regiment. He was promoted to corporal on January 8, 1918, to sergeant on February 19, 1918, and to mess sergeant on February 20, 1918 (becoming the Mess Sergeant of Battery F, 115th Field Artillery). The 113th, 114th, and 115th Field Artillery Regiments were part of the 55th Field Artillery Brigade.

The 55th Field Artillery Brigade arrived in France in June 1918 and after several weeks of training at Camp Coetquidan was sent to the front on August 20, 1918, where it served in support of the 89th Infantry Division during the St. Mihiel Offensive. On September 15-23, 1918, the brigade moved to take up positions northwest of Verdun where it would act in support of the 37th Infantry Division during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. From October 8, 1918, to the end of the war, the brigade operated in support of the 79th Infantry Division in the Woevre sector southeast of Verdun.

Kleeman was cited by the regimental commanding officer, Col. Harry S. Berry, for extraordinary heroism. The citation reads: "Mess Sergeant Karl M. Kleeman, Battery F. For extraordinary heroism. On the morning of September 27, 1918, near Avocourt, when three members of the battery had been mortally wounded, Sergeant Kleeman disregarded his own safety by remaining with these men. In spite of heavy shelling he continued to attend these men as long as his services were needed" (qtd. in Bacon 203, 205). Kleeman was honorably discharged on July 11, 1919. He died in Nashville, Tennessee, on May 11, 1972.

Work cited:
Bacon, William J., ed. *History of the Fifty-Fifth Field Artillery Brigade*.
        Nashville, TN: Benson Printing Co., 1920. Print.

Organization/Arrangement of Materials

The photographs were originally stored in an album with "magnetic" or self-adhesive pages. Since those types of albums are deleterious to photographs, they were removed from the album. The album pages were scanned to document the original layout of the photographs and those scans may be found in Folder 1. The photographs were grouped by their approximate subject matter and then all of the photographs pertaining to each subject were placed in a single folder. Unless otherwise noted, the description of each photograph is the caption on the photograph itself.

Conditions of Access and Use

Restrictions on Access:

No restrictions.

Restrictions on Use and Reproduction:

No restrictions.

Index Terms

Personal Names:

Clemenceau, Georges, 1841-1929
Foch, Ferdinand, 1851-1929
Guynemer, Georges, 1894-1917
Kleeman, Karl M., 1894-1972
Pershing, John J. (John Joseph), 1860-1948

Corporate Names/Organizations/Government Bodies:

United States. Army
United States. Army. American Expeditionary Forces
United States. Army. Division, 89th

Subjects:

World War, 1914-1918.
World War, 1914-1918 -- Aerial operations.
World War, 1914-1918 -- Balloons
World War, 1914-1918 -- Battlefields
World War, 1914-1918 -- Battlefields -- France
World War, 1914-1918 -- Battlefields -- France--Pictorial works

World War, 1914-1918 -- Battlefields -- Pictorial works
World War, 1914-1918 -- Campaigns
World War, 1914-1918 -- Campaigns--France
World War, 1914-1918 -- Campaigns Western Front
World War, 1914-1918 -- Chemical warfare
World War, 1914-1918 -- France
World War, 1914-1918 -- Naval operations
World War, 1914-1918 -- Naval operations, American
World War, 1914-1918 -- Pictorial works
World War, 1914-1918 -- Tank warfare
World War, 1914-1918 -- Trench warfare
World War, 1914-1918 -- United States

Geographic Names:

Argonne (France)
Arras (France)
Belleau, Bois de (France)
Bordeaux (Aquitaine, France)
Bourlon Wood (France)
Brest (France)
Cambrai (France)
Chateau-Thierry (France)
Chaumont (Haute-Marne, France)
Clarksville (Tenn.)
     -en-Valois (France)
Marne (France)
Noyon (France)
Rheims (France)
Saint-Mihiel (France)
Soissons (France)
Somme (France)
Verdun (France)

Document Types:

Photographs

Acquisition and Appraisal

Provenance and Acquisition:

The photographs were a gift from Kleeman's daughter-in-law, Jean
Roseman, in 2006.

Processing and Administrative Information

Preferred Citation:

Karl M. Kleeman World War I Photograph Collection, Tennessee State Library and Archives

Processing Information:

Processing completed by William M. Thomas, Archival Technical Services, March 2007.

Related Materials:

Digital reproductions of selected items from this collection are available electronically at http://teva.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm4/WWI.php

Electronic Location and Access:

http://www.tennessee.gov/tsla/history/manuscripts/findingaids/2006-059.pdf

CONTAINER LIST

Contents/Item Title	Date	Box	Folder
Album Scans	2006	1	1
Photographs -- Aircraft 1. "Inflating a French Sausage" 2. "Wrecked Airplane (Marne)" 3. "Capt. Guynemer In Full Flight" 4. "Capt. Guynemer In 'Old Charles'" 5. "Clemenceau Visiting French Aviation Camp Near Front"	1914 - 1918	1	2
Photographs -- Artillery 1. "Big German Gun (Crepy on Lannois)" 2. "German Gun" 3. "French '75' In Abri" 4. "Camouflaged German Battery Near Ostend" 5. "155's In Action East of Roye" 6. "U. S. Coast Artillery In Action At Lenoncourt (Meuse)" 7. "French Heavy Artillery In Winter"	1914 - 1918	1	3
Photographs -- Battle Scenes 1. "Smoke Barrage" 2. "French going over the top – Chateau Thierry" 3. "British Tank disguised by Huns (Champagne)" 4. "German machine gunners retreating (Belleau Wood)" 5. "Clevencourt" 6. "German flames [sic] throwers" 7. "French Tank Leading An Attack Along Marne" 8. "French Tank Leading An Attack Along Marne" 9. "Shell holes near Chateau-Thierry" 10. "Argonne forest – 1918 Shell exploding" 11. "Gas attack" 12. "French Tanks Going Into Line" 13. "Explosion of German Time Bomb in Cambria (Nord)"	1914 - 1918	1	4

Photographs -- Casualties
   1. "Dead German Corporal"
   2. "After the German retreat at St. Mihiel"
   3. "After a Yank barrage near Soissons 1800 Boches deads [sic]"
   4. "German dead after an attack"
   5. "Boche Soldiers Near Roye (Oise)"
   6. "Boche Soldiers Near Roye (Oise)"
   7. "Remains of a Boche"
   8. "Dead Boche At Mouth of Abri"
   9. Dead German soldier [no caption]
  10. "Dead Germans (Oise)"
  11. "A Destroyed Boche Stronghold (Somme)"
  12. "Near Soissons: German Machine Guns After the Fight"
  13. "Deadman's hill – Verdun 1916"
  14. Dead German with helmet [no caption]
  15. Dead German with helmet and no face [no caption]
	1914 - 1918	1	5

Photographs -- Cemeteries
   1. "German Cemetary [sic]"
   2. "U. S. Cemetery At Belleau Wood"
	1914 - 1918	1	6

Photographs -- Cities, Towns, Civilians, etc.
   1. "(Soissons) Church"
   2. "Ruins near St. Mihiel"
   3. "Ruined Belgium Village"
   4. "[Cathedral?] Arras"
   5. "St. Mihiel bridge Chevoncourt"
   6. "Alsatian Girls"
   7. "End Of Bridge At Chateau Thierry Blown Up By Americans During German Drive"
   8. "Tree Felled By Shell At Fontavert (Oise)"
   9. "Remains of R. R. Bridge Over Marne Near Chateau Thierry"
  10. "Roye (Somme)"
  11. "Bridge At Mousson"
  12. "Bridge At Chateau Thierry Blown Up By Americans"
  13. "Rheims"
  14. "Rheims Cathedrale [sic]"
	1914 - 1918	1	7

Photographs -- Naval scenes
   1. "U. S. S. Lianga At Bordeaux"
   2. "U. S. S. Rambler With Anti-Sub Gun And Depth Bombs at Brest"
   3. "On Board U. S. S. Rumpler – Ready For Subs"
	1914 - 1918	1	8

Photographs -- Troops, Trenches, Fortifications, etc.
  1. "Argonne Forest"
  2. "First Amers. on Parade June 1907 [sic] (Bois de Boulogne)"
  3. "Krownprinz [sic] at Soissons"
  4. "Hindenburg Line (Soissons)"
  5. "German trenches (Belleau Wood)"
  6. "German Entertainment"
  7. "French Artillery Observation Post"
  8. "Camouflaged Road Near Livry Sur Vesle (Marne)"
  9. "French Grenadiers (Marne)"
  10. "American Ambulance Service With French Army"
  11. "Big French Searchlight Combing The Sky For Planes"
  12. "French Front Line Trenches"
  13. "Street In Noyon Mined By Germans"
  14. "German First Aid Station – Forest Of Ourchamf (Oise)"
  15. "Trench Scene At Bataglan 'Four de Paris'"
  16. "German prisoners (Marne)"
  17. "At Practice With R. C. Dogs In The Trenches Near Luippes (Marne)"
  18. "Marshall Foche [sic] & General Pershing At Chaumont – American G.H.Q."
  19. "German Anti Air Craft Gun"
  20. "German Camp"
	1914 - 1918	1	9